

# Habitat Restoration in Juanita Bay Park

Major changes are coming to Juanita Bay Park! The City of Kirkland has embarked on a multi-year habitat restoration project focusing on improving wildlife habitat in the forests and wetlands. The map on the right-hand kiosk panel shows the different habitat types present in the park and project sites for 2009 and 2010.

Invasive and noxious plant species such as Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*) and reed canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) are a large problem within the park. These non-native plants are extremely aggressive and displace a wide variety of native species that would normally provide food, cover, and nesting habitat for birds and animals. In 2009, work began to remove blackberry and plant 40 different species of native plants, including over 2,000 trees and shrubs to improve wildlife habitat.



To complete this work, the City's Green Kirkland Partnership has teamed up with three local nonprofit organizations: EarthCorps, Seattle Urban Nature (now part of EarthCorps), and the Washington Native Plant Society. Seattle Urban Nature mapped invasive species and habitats within the park and created a restoration action plan. EarthCorps is leading city-sponsored volunteer events and is providing crews to conduct restoration work. Native Plant Stewards are adopting a half-acre area in 2009 and another in 2010, and will lead volunteer work parties.

Several volunteer events are scheduled in 2010, including an Earth Day event on April 24<sup>th</sup> and a planting event on November 13<sup>th</sup>. Goats will be on site April 23, 24, 25 to eat invasive plants. Also, Native Plant Stewards will be leading more volunteer work parties to remove Himalayan blackberry and plant native plants. To get involved, please see

[www.greenkirkland.org](http://www.greenkirkland.org),

or contact Sharon Rodman (425) 587-3305 or email: [greenkirkland@kirklandwa.gov](mailto:greenkirkland@kirklandwa.gov)

